

## THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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Write all communications, designed for publication, on one side of the paper.  
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Address all communications to  
THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER,  
Winston, N. C.

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## THE CROSS MARK.

The cross mark on your paper indicates that the time for which you subscribed has or is about to expire. It is to give notice so your subscription may be renewed. If the subscription be not renewed the name will be dropped from the list, but we want every one to renew and bring a friend along too.

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See our offer to give THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER one year and the Patch Corn Sheller for four dollars. This is the best sheller for the money in America. It is guaranteed and will give entire satisfaction. Send in your orders at once.

A bill passed the Senate of the United States last Friday, repealing the tenure of office act by a vote of 30 to 22.

If the men who follow the plow in the United States stood together what a mighty power they could wield in shaping public policy.

Messrs. Hill, Fontaine & Co., of Memphis, Tenn., in their cotton crop report, put down the crop of the present year at 6,387,436 bales.

Three negroes are under arrest in Baltimore for the murder of a white woman, whose body they delivered to a medical college, receiving \$15 for it.

Col. A. S. Buford has resigned the presidency of the Richmond & Danville railroad company, and Alfred Sully, of New York, has been elected to succeed him.

Mr. Morrison, of Illinois, made an effort to get his tariff bill before the House of Representatives last Saturday, but his motion was defeated by a vote of 154 against to 149 for consideration.

The estimated value of the various products of the farms of the United States annually is between two and three thousand millions of dollars. Where is the other industry that can compare with this?

The State Board of Agriculture will hold a meeting on the night of January 18, 1887, to discuss topics appertaining to the material interests of the State, to which the farmers of the various sections of the State are invited to go and participate in the discussion, so as to give the Department the benefit of their views and learn what it is doing.

J. P. Green, a prominent grocer of Concord in this State, a married man with wife and five children, charged with the seduction of a young woman, committed suicide last Friday by shooting himself with a pistol just after rising from bed in the morning.

The Supreme Court of North Carolina has rendered an opinion sustaining the constitutionality of drummer's license tax law. It was a case on appeal of the State against Long, of Baltimore, from the Superior Court of Rowan, arrested in Salisbury for non-payment of the tax.

## TENNESSEE HOGS.

The Charlotte Chronicle of a few days ago noticed the arrival of 92 fat hogs from Tennessee, to be slaughtered to supply the demand for fresh pork. This is no unusual thing. A very large percentage, practically speaking, nearly all the pork slaughtered by the Charlotte butchers comes from a distance, chiefly from Tennessee.

The Salisbury Watchman of last week remarks that now it is exceedingly rare to see a Rowan farmer bring a hog to market and that fresh pork except in very small quantities is hard to get. Before the war it says it was no uncommon sight to see numbers of country wagons coming to town with slaughtered hogs for sale. There is not a town of any size in the State that does not depend, to a greater or less extent, for its supply of fresh pork on hogs brought from a distance, while millions of pounds of Western meat are brought into the State every year to supply, in the great part, the wants of the farmers. With such facts before us it is a wonder that so many of our farmers are struggling with adversity day after day and are going down under the heavy load they have to carry?

North Carolina farmers should not only raise every pound of pork they require but also enough to supply the demand of the towns and have some left to ship to other States. If Tennessee farmers can raise hogs, ship to North Carolina and sell at a profit, North Carolina farmers ought to be able to supply our home markets at a profit. For hog raising Tennessee has no advantage over North Carolina, but her farmers have not given themselves over to cotton and tobacco. They can see money in something else. They do not cultivate their crops on borrowed money nor sink themselves up to their eyes in debt for commercial fertilizers. North Carolina buys not only hogs and meat from other States but wheat and flour from Western fields and mills, and horses and mules from Western farms when she could and should raise her own wheat, her own horses and her own mules. Drive after drove of horses and mules, especially the latter, are driven every spring from Tennessee and Kentucky into the cotton belt of North Carolina for sale and generally they find ready sale at prices that pay the drovers well and at prices which our cotton planters, with the figures at which cotton has ranged for the past few years, can ill afford to pay. But they must have mules to work in the cotton fields and if they do not raise them they must buy them. They buy them, trust them to careless, heartless hirelings, who work, abuse, starve and wear them out, and then buy more. This process goes on year after year. There is not a cotton planter in North Carolina who could not, if he would, raise all the horses and mules he needed at a much less cost than he pays for them and thus not only save that much money for himself, but keep it at home, where it is needed. Suppose the money the farmers annually pay for meat, flour, horses and mules was kept at home, how much less complaint would there be of hard times and scarcity of money. They can do all this if they would, and that they do not do it is evidence that there is a screw loose, and a very big screw, in the machinery somewhere.

## X CONVICT LABOR ON OUR ROADS.

We publish elsewhere a communication from a valued correspondent in Mecklenburg county on the subject of employing convict labor on our country roads. He expresses the opinion that it is not practicable or profitable as compared with free labor. We agree with him that free labor is better but do not agree with him, although we have a high regard for his opinion, on its impracticability. Most of the work would be done in the summer and fall when the weather is mild and the days long enough to get a good day's work. The construction of stockades would be, as they are the rudest structures and made of material close at hand, a comparatively small matter. The most plausible objection is that the convicts would have to be worked in large bodies to obviate the necessity of employing many guards. But this is not as serious an objection as it seems to be on first sight. If the State could not furnish

the guards necessary, the county in which the work is being done, could and doubtless would be willing to furnish guards, thus dividing that expense with the State. But few guards are employed in the railroad gradings where large numbers of convicts are at work and we have never heard of anything like a general break at escape. The fact is the majority of the convicts as a rule seem pretty well satisfied, the only thing about them, indicating that they are convicts being the striped clothes and armed guards. While we agree with our respected correspondent that free labor is better, how to get that free labor is a vexed question. There is objection to taxation to pay for that labor, and free labor as now employed is, practically speaking, no labor at all. The Mecklenburg road law, to which our friend refers, and for which Mecklenburg county is mainly indebted to him, we believe, is a decided improvement on the old laws in operation. The Forsyth road law now in operation, resembles the Mecklenburg in some respects.

We believe this that where the people will stand taxation, which would be very heavy, to pay the laborer to make good roads, it would be better than convict labor, but where this is not done convict labor is the next best thing.

## A MERRY CHRISTMAS.

In order to afford the printers and editors of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER an opportunity to take the Christmas holiday rest we will issue no paper next week. It is well to rest; it is well to take recreation, for both make the man stronger for renewed and exacting labor. Christmas time is generally a season of merriment. This is well, too. Merriment, innocent merriment, merriment without dissipation to bring shame or remorse, is good. We would like to see old and young, man, woman and child, rich and poor, merry, and, what is better than merry, happy. But it should not be a season of merriment simply, but of reflection also; as this year goes out and the new one comes in we should recall the past, think upon the errors we have made and resolve to steer clear of them. Some of us can find much to improve upon, none of us but can find something. With this little sermon THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, which labors for the good of all but especially for the honest, patient tillers of the soil, as it goes to its twelve hundred rural homes in North Carolina this week brings greeting, and wishes all a merry and a happy Christmas.

## THE CONVENTION.

Reports from various portions of the State represent the farmers as warmly endorsing the call for a convention. A number of clubs have passed resolutions in favor of it similar to those of Trinity club and the Pitt county club, which will be found on first page. The movement is gaining strength every day.

## WHAT THE CULTURE OF TOBACCO HAS DONE.

EDITOR PROGRESSIVE FARMER:—About six or eight years ago in conversation with two other farmers (tobacco raisers) on the subject of tobacco raising, I made the assertion that the culture of tobacco was the worst curse that had ever been introduced into North Carolina. They seemed to almost doubt the sanity of a man who would venture such an assertion. I asserted it because I believed it to be a stubborn fact and I believe the time has come when hundreds of others will (if they have not already) come to the same conclusion. Fifteen years ago the farmer as a class paid his way or he did not go. To-day the farmers of North Carolina owe to firms in other States hundreds of thousands of dollars, much of which I fear they will never be able to pay without sacrifice, for chemical fertilizers, another grand curse for which the culture of tobacco is responsible. Fifteen years ago when the farmer wanted to haul his grain or his pork to market he could do so during fine weather and over reasonably good roads, bringing back the cash for his product. Now he must haul his tobacco over the worst of roads during the worst of weather, take what he can get, no matter what it is worth, and goes back not loaded with the cash but with the very things he should raise at home, viz.: meat and bread, vowing he will

never stick another plant and next spring he will put out more than he did last.

How about our seasons? We once had seasonable summers and mild winters. Now in summer we are scorched by drouth and in winter frozen by blizzards. This is the fact. Where do we find the cause? Some years ago when many of the farmers had the Texas fever others said they would not live in a country so subject to drouth and sudden changes of temperature and yet these same farmers, in order to grow fine yellow tobacco, have with the axe in one hand and the fire brand in the other, made havoc with what should have been the pride of the old North State, her magnificent forests, and made North Carolina just such a country as they once vowed they would never inhabit.

Farmers, when, oh, when will you turn from your evil ways?

Show me ten farmers who have raised tobacco for ten years and I will show you seven out of the ten who are (all things considered) poorer than they were ten years ago. It is my honest conviction and I fear that time will prove me correct, that ten more years of reckless growing of tobacco and using commercial fertilizers will find North Carolina in a worse financial condition than she was at the close of the civil war.

## TAR HEEL.

Dec. 16, 1886.

## State Items.

—A pecan tree at Elizabeth City has produced six bushels of large pecans whose market value is \$24. —Economist.

—We learn, and we are sorry to learn it, that diphtheria is raging in the vicinity of Franklinsville. There have been several deaths. —Greensboro Workman.

—The production of gold in Cabarrus county for 1885 was \$14,000; in Mecklenburg, \$16,000; in Rowan \$6,000; in Stanly, \$2,500; in Montgomery \$8,000 and in Randolph \$69,000. —Concord Times.

—It is a remarkable fact, and one for which we have never heard an explanation, that cattle brought across Smith's river from the Meadows nearly always die. Can any one explain it? —Dan Valley Echo.

—A large black snake, measuring 3 feet and six inches, was killed by Mr. William Ebert's large dog at his barn a short distance from the city last Sunday. The snake was found lying on top of the snow. —Winston Sentinel.

—Mr. C. A. Winkler furnishes us the largest yet heard from the Twin-City pigpens. He slaughtered five hogs last Wednesday that weighed respectively 296, 378, 384, 423 and 484 pounds—total 1,965 pounds. —Republican.

—Mr. T. P. Clarke, taxidermist, exhibited at this office last night a white squirrel, killed on Mr. John Dillard's plantation, near Croatan, in this county. He was about half grown and almost as white as snow. —Newbern Journal.

—At the stock law election held in John's River township, last Saturday, 63 votes were cast for the stock law and 53 against it, making it carry by a majority of 10. There were 126 voters registered, only 10 of whom failed to vote, ineluctable as the day was. —Lenoir Topic.

—Durham shipped last week 72,485 pounds of smoking tobacco, worth \$27,504.84. 2,615 pounds chewing tobacco, worth \$858.00. 10,000 cigars, worth \$341.00. 5,442,800 cigarettes, worth \$17,955.50. At the warehouses, 68,167 pounds of leaf tobacco were sold for \$6,676.71. —Durham Plant.

—The carding machines, spinning frames and looms have been placed in position at the cotton factory, and other machinery is being placed as rapidly as possible. Wires are being strung up in all parts of the building for electric lights. The brick work on the store house and office has been finished. —Lexington Dispatch.

—Mr. P. H. Thompson, of Tyro Shops, Davidson county, after several visits here and after inspecting and pricing property, has given out that he will shortly move his foundry and machine shops to Statesville. He works from 20 to 40 hands, manufactures agricultural implements and does a wide range of work in the foundry and machine line. —Statesville Landmark.

## THE CLUB MOVEMENT IN THE EAST.

WORK BEGUN IN EDGEcombe.

Rocky Mount, N. C.)  
Dec. 15, 1886.

EDITOR PROGRESSIVE FARMER:—The farmers' meeting which was to have taken place on the 7th inst. and postponed until the 14th on account of the severe snow storm was held yesterday with quite a number of prominent farmers present. Dr. A. B. Nobles was called to the chair and Mr. W. E. Philips requested to act as secretary. Upon motion a committee of four was appointed to prepare a plan of organization, constitution and by-laws, said committee consisting of G. C. Battle, Dr. John R. Mercer, W. E. Philips and Dr. R. H. Speight. While the committee was out at work on the plan of organization some very interesting speeches were made by Mr. Jesse Brake, M. J. Battle, Dr. Noble and others that brought forth rounds of applause. Mr. Brake said the cause of the farmers under the present laws reminded him of an incident that happened at his house while filling up a ditch. As the dirt was being shoveled in an old gray hen followed close behind and scratched and scratched. Just behind her stood an old yellow hen that did no scratching but every time the old gray hen found a worm the yellow hen picked it up. This continued for some time until the old gray hen becoming tired of doing all the scratching turned around and catching the old rogue in the act of gobbling up one of her worms, jumped on her and gave her a good whipping and ran her off. This was such an apt illustration that it brought down the house.

The committee having in charge the plan of organization being now ready to report, the speaking was suspended and the meeting proceeded to business. The plan of organization being adopted and other work attended to, among which was the motion to appoint a committee for each township to get up township clubs, the meeting adjourned to meet on the first Tuesday in January next. There was great unanimity of purpose and enthusiasm and the very best of feeling prevailed among the farmers. But take care for the "old yellow hen."

Yours very truly,

FARMER.

## ORGANIZATION OF THE WAYNE COUNTY FARMERS' CLUB.

A meeting composed of farmers of this county desirous of organizing a farmers' club was held at the Court house on Saturday last.

Mr. Albert Aycock was called to preside and Mr. J. N. Green requested to act as secretary. The object of the meeting was explained by Mr. J. W. Bryan, who also gave an outline of the work that might profitably engage the attention of the farmers of the county in an organized capacity. Several gentlemen present followed in remarks heartily endorsing the movement, emphasizing its benefits, and calling upon the entire brotherhood of farmers of the county, and inviting those from beyond our limits to co-operate in making it a success. A committee upon a plan of organization was constituted by the appointment of J. W. Bryan, D. E. Stevens and T. B. Parker with whom the chairman and secretary were requested to act. After the enrollment of names for membership the meeting adjourned to Saturday next, the 18th, at 10 o'clock. It is earnestly desired that all the farmers lend their presence at this meeting and identify themselves with this progressive movement. It is expected that from time to time papers will be read on the various agricultural topics which are of great importance to every tiller of the soil.

Free discussions and an interchange of views and experiences relative to the various branches of farm operations cannot but result in great good to our farming community. It is designed that all propositions that aim at more intelligent, and as a necessary consequence, more successful farming shall, as they may be reached, claim the attention of the club. At the next meeting upon perfecting the organization, the extremely interesting subject of drainage will be considered. Gentlemen who have practical knowledge of this subject have been invited to be present and contribute to the interest of the meeting.

J. N. GREEN, Sec'y.

—Goldboro Messenger.